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(*b*) to which places it will be supplying electricity; and

(*c*) what will be the charge per unit current if it is for lighting and other household purposes, and what will be the cost if it is for mills or for agricultural purposes?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) It is not possible to furnish the information asked for, as the scheme has not yet been submitted to Government for consideration. The details are being worked out by the Chief Engineer for Electricity.

Contract with a private company for the supply of electricity to Villupuram and Cuddalore.

* 369 *Q.*—Mr. M. B. Rangaswami Reddi: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that contract has been given to a private company for the supply of electricity to Villupuram and Cuddalore, and if so, why such permission was given;

(*b*) whether any survey for electricity is being carried on between Mettur and Madras;

(*c*) if so, when it will be completed;

(*d*) whether electricity will be supplied to the Madras City after the completion of the survey; and

(*e*) if the answer to clause (*d*) is in the affirmative, what the probable cost per unit of current consumed at Madras will be?

A.—(*a*) A licence to supply electric energy in the taluks of Cuddalore, Chidambaram and Villupuram has been granted to the South Arcot Electric Distribution Company, Ltd. The licence was given on the application of the company in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Electricity Act and the rules framed under it.

(*b*) & (*c*) A survey of the route of the transmission line from Mettur to Madras (197 miles) was completed in the year 1932–33.

(*d*) The supply to Madras City cannot be made on the completion of the mere survey.

(*e*) It is not possible now to state what the cost per unit of hydro-electric power will be when it becomes possible to make it available in 'Madras.'

Forests

Withdrawal of forest concessions in South Kanara.

* 370 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the peculiar privileges which had been conceded to the cultivators of South Kanara in respect of their neighbouring reserve forests were and when they had been granted;

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(*b*) in what villages of South Kanara the forest village system with panchayats was existing at the close of the financial year 1932–33;

(*c*) whether the forest panchayats under the forest village system with the concessions have been now withdrawn in any of the villages of South Kanara, and, if so, in which and for what reasons; and after what previous notices of warning duly published in local papers and communicated to the villages; and

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the forest village system worked satisfactorily till the close of the year 1931–32 in the North Mangalore division?

A.—(*a*) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer to clauses (*a*) and (*b*) of question No. 743 answered on 22nd March 1933.

The concessions were granted in 1922.

(*b*) (1) Todar.
(2) Hosabettu.
(3) Tenkahola.

(*c*) The forest panchayats under the forest village system have not been withdrawn. The general concessions exercised by the Todar and the Hosabettu panchayats have, however, been withdrawn in the interests of the forests since cutting and lopping must result in serious damage. The notice of withdrawal was published in the *South Kanara District Gazette*, dated 24th January 1933. A copy of the notice was also sent to the Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars and Range officers for wide publication. A copy of the notice was also sent to the Secretary, South Kanara Wargdars' Association.

(*d*) Yes.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—" May I ask how the Government propose to meet the needs of the ryots who have been depending upon the reserved forests for the supply of manure leaves for cultivation? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" They themselves have to be blamed for having abused the privileges."

Prisons and Prisoners

Application of Mr. Benoyendra Nath Roy Chowdhury for permission to go to Europe for treatment.

* 371 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. Benoyendra Nath Roy Chowdhury applied to the Government asking for permission to go to Europe for treatment as he did not improve his health at all in jail; and what the Government have done in the matter?

A.—Benoyendra Nath Roy Chowdhury has been permitted by the Givernment of India to go to Europe. He sailed from Bombay on 30th September 1933.